

## Early Childhood Services

### Purpose Of Early Childhood Services:

- to coordinate activities, establish standards and provide training to providers of early care and education for children so that they can meet their goals as agreed upon with the department.

**Child Care Licensing:** County social service offices conduct child care licensing studies, investigate complaints, and issue correction orders. Regional offices issue licenses, denials, revocations, and suspensions. The state office develops regulations, policies, and procedures; conducts licensing training; reviews notices before issuance; and provides technical assistance.

### N.D. Child Care Provider Data:

As of March 2005 there were:

- 924 self certified child care providers**  
*They self certify that they comply with some health and safety regulations. They are not inspected or monitored.*  
(Capacity: 4,620 children)
- 1,667 licensed child care providers**  
*They are licensed by the state and undergo initial and ongoing inspections to assure compliance with health and safety standards.* (Capacity: 32,146 children)
- 829 relative approved providers**  
(Capacity: 1,775 children)
- The voluntary background check registry, *CareCheck*, includes about **700** providers

### Corrective Actions Taken In 2004:

*Involve licensed and self-certified providers*

- |                                        |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|
| • Intent to deny license/certification | 27  |
| • Denial of license or certification   | 35  |
| • Intent to revoke                     | 8   |
| • Revocations                          | 18  |
| • Suspensions                          | 1   |
| • Appeals                              | 6   |
| • Correction orders (county issued)    | 324 |
| • Concerns/Complaints                  | 170 |

### Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR):

Authorized in North Dakota Century Code, the program refers parents to licensed providers, develops and conducts provider training, and provides resources and assistance to help providers meet their business needs.

### N.D. Program For Infant Toddler Caregivers:

Launched in 1993 with support from the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minn., this initiative has enabled North Dakota to use the West Ed Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers curriculum to provide ongoing training and consultation to providers caring for infants and toddlers.

### 2004 Outcomes

- 62 training events
- 152 hours of training (Attendance: 841)
- 30 quality enhancement projects were completed in N.D. child care centers

### Apprenticeship Project:

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, this project provides intensive training and mentorship opportunities for early childhood professionals, which leads to national certification.

### 2004 Outcomes

- 7 apprenticeship sponsor sites operating
  - 30 registered apprentices
  - 23 active qualified journey teachers

### First Children's Finance Of ND:

Launched in 2004 in partnership with Minnesota nonprofit *The Development Corporation for Children*, this program provides low interest business loans to family child care providers, child care centers, and early education programs.

### Accreditation Scholarship Program:

This program provides funding for child care programs including family providers, centers, and school-age programs for the accreditation process. In addition, facilities completing the process can receive up to \$500 in grant funds.

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## **Child Development Associate Scholarship Program**

The scholarship program provides funding for individuals who have achieved their Child Development Associate Certificate. Applicants can receive up to \$500 towards costs incurred in obtaining their certificate.

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## **Early Care And Education Professional Development Plan**

A Professional Development Leadership Team comprised of 20 members helped define the framework of the Early Care and Education Professional Development Plan. A plan has been created and will be implemented.

## **Early Learning Guidelines**

A Planning/Development/Funding Group that consists of individuals representing the N.D. Department of Human Services and the N.D. Department of Public Instruction has entered into an agreement with a writing team to draft the *Early Learning Guidelines Birth to Five*. The guidelines will be tested, and officials expect to receive the final draft by June 30, 2006. When completed, the guidelines will be available to providers, parents and others.

## **Regional Early Childhood Services Supervisor**

Regional Early Childhood Services Supervisor positions were established in 1998 to improve communication and consistency within the Early Childhood Services licensing system. The State Administrator of Early Childhood Services convenes meetings with the Early Childhood Services Supervisors.

## **State Early Childhood Services Team**

The State Early Childhood Services Team consists of the Regional Early Childhood Supervisors, Child Care Resource and Referral Directors, County Licensers (four elected by their peers), County Directors (four appointed by the County Directors Association) and the State Administrator of Early Childhood Services. The team was established in 1999 to improve communication within the early childhood services delivery system, to identify challenges and issues related to early childhood services, and to enhance the service delivery system. The State Administrator of Early Childhood Services convenes team meetings in Bismarck.